

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 23 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 8, 13, 18, 21, 22, and 24 have been amended. Further, the approved changes to FIG. 4 are submitted in the accompanying Letter.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-22, and 24-26 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

In the Office Action at page 2, the Examiner rejects claims 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, due to the recitation of the term "curved" for the reasons set forth therein. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

As an initial point of clarification, it is respectfully submitted that the term "curved" is supported by the specification as would be understood by one skill in the art when taken in conjunction with the drawings. See generally, MPEP 2163, 2163.06, 217305. For instance, the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 3 includes antireflection films 20 and 22 on optical surfaces of a condenser lens 17A, where the optical surfaces are shown to be curved. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the term "curved" has sufficient meaning such that the term "curved" would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art in the context of the claims. However, in order to expedite prosecution and to more broadly set forth an aspect of the invention recited in claim 21, claim 21 has been amended to remove the term "curved" as indicated. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Further, claims 23 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims is deemed moot.

Claims 22 and 24-26 are deemed patentable due at least to their depending from claim 21.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action at pages 3-4, the Examiner rejected claims 13-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,051,842) and Tei et al. (U.S. Patent No.

6,292,616). The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

As an initial point, claims 23 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims is deemed moot.

Even assuming *arguendo* that the Examiner's interpretation of the combination of Yamamoto and Tei et al. is correct, as also acknowledged by the Examiner on pages 4-5 of the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that, among other features, the combination of Yamamoto and Tei et al. does not disclose or suggest "a suppressor, arranged in at least one of the optical paths, having a reflectance characteristic of increasing reflectance on a short wavelength side of a working wavelength region and decreasing reflectance on a long wavelength side of the working wavelength region, the suppressor suppressing the wavelength dependence in a predetermined wavelength range" as recited in claim 13. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Yamamoto and Tei et al. does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 13.

For similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Yamamoto and Tei et al. does not disclose or suggest the inventions recited in claims 18 and 21.

Claims 14-17, 19, 20, 22 and 24-26 are deemed patentable due at least to their depending from corresponding claims 13, 18, and 21.

STATUS OF CLAIMS NOT REJECTED:

On pages 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner allows claims 1-4 and 6-12.

CONCLUSION:

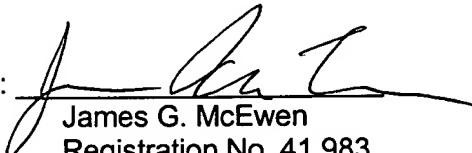
In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By: 
James G. McEwen
Registration No. 41,983

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

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